THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) 985 employees of Vayudoot were to be absorbed by Indian Airlines out of a total 1391 employees.

(c) So far appointment letters to 778 Vayudoot employees for absorption in the Short Haul Operations Department of Indian Airlines have been issued.

Aircrafts owned by Vayudoot

3250. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vayudoot has been totally merged with Indian Airlines, if not, whether there is a proposal for the same.

(b) the number of aircrafts and type of aircrafts owned by Vayudoot;

(c) in how many sectors the Vayudoot Aircraft are flying if not, whether the aircrafts have been given on lease; and

(d) what is the total losses incurred by Vayudoot till 31st March, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Vayudoot is working as a separate division of Indian Airlines.

(b) Vayudoot owns 8 Dornier-228 aircraft out of which 3 are operational.

(c) Vayudoot is presently operating 13 stations in West Bengal and the North-East Region. No aircraft of Vayudoot is on lease.

(d) The total loss incurred by Vayudoot since its inception upto 31-3-94 is Rs. 201.60 Crores.

Air-worthiness of Boeing aircrafts

3251. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of 737 Boeing Aircrafts with Indian Airlines;

(b) how many of them have been flying for over 15 years;

(c) which international agency certify the Air-worthiness of Boeing 737 and whether all our Boeing 737 have been certified as airworthy, if so, when;

(d) whether Indian Airlines are considering to replace the Boeing 737 with any other new aircrafts; and

(e) if so, by when the Boeing 737 will be phased out finally?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has twenty Boeing 737 aircraft at present, of which eight are more than 15 years old.

(c) Certification of Air-worthiness for operators in India is within the domain of Director General of Civil Aviation: India; aircraft are operated only if they are certified by DGCA as airworthy.

(d) and (e) Indian Airilnes does not have any firm plan for replacement of Boeing 737 aircraft at present The aircraft are likely to remain in operation till the year 2000.

Foreign Investors in Tourism Industry

3252. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign investors have shown interest in investing in tourism industry in the country; and

(b) what is the total foreign capital which has come to India in tourism, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During the period 1-8-91 to 28-2-95 foreign investment proposals amounting to Rs. 1,112.23 crores have been approved in the tourism sector, of which Rs. 1,110.56 crores is in the Hotel and Restaurant Sector. According to information received from Reserve Bank of India, foreign capital to the tnue of Rs. 54.48 crores has already come to India.

Inconvenience to passengers at Madras International Airport

3253. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the daily Hindu dated the 27th February, 1995 about the inconvenience caused to the passengers at the Madras International Airport; and

(b) what are the steps taken to expedite the delivery of baggages to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Passengers face inconvenience at Anna International terminal due to bunching of flights. The ground handling agencies have been advised to improve the capability during the peak periods to ensure timely delivery of baggages to the passenger.

Aerodromes in big cities

3254. DR. ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of big cities of the country with the population of twenty lakhs and above which are not having aerodromes; and

(b) by when Government propose to provide aerodromes and aviation facility in those cities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) All cities with a population of twenty lakhs and above have airports.

Air bus service from New Delhi to Goa

3255. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need to commence an Air bus instead of Boeing in Indian Airlines to meet the growing traffic of Air Travel from New Delhi to Goa;

(b) whether Government are aware that the travel in Boeing in Indian Airlines is almost taxing to the passengers due to crumbled seating arrangements with very little moving space;

(c) if so, by when Government will commence flying Air buses to Goa from Delhi: and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider this proposal earnestly to help the air passengers to Goa?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Indian Airlines is planning to augment its services to Goa during the coming winter season, depending on the traffic requirements. The present seat lay out and seat pitch in B-737 aircraft is in accordance with recommendations and standards of M/s. Boeing Company.